



# **CIAC**

## **Asthma Coalition Interim Update**

January 7, 2005



### **OUR COALITION IN ACTION**

#### **Asthma Prevention & Control Meetings 2005**

Public Health Training Meeting - May 11, 8:00am - 4:30pm

All Coalitions Meeting - May 12, 8:00am - Noon

Holiday Inn, 3300 Vista Avenue, Boise

Jean Woodward has asked CIAC to recruit two coalition members to attend the All Coalitions Meeting. They are also invited to participate in the training meeting if interested. If you would like to attend, please contact Jenn for additional information and details. Jennifer 327-8591

#### **Welcome new Coalition Members!**

The CIAC is proud to welcome three new coalition members! Please greet our Horseshoe Bend representatives, Kari Cooper, Scott Mutchie and Abby Reay at our next meeting. Kari, Scott and Abby, thank you for your dedication to asthma education and awareness, we're glad to have you as part of our team!

#### **Additional Coalition Members Wanted:**

If you know of any person(s) who would like to join our coalition to promote asthma awareness and education in our community, please have them contact Jennifer Darling at (208) 327-8591, or [jdarling@cdhd.idaho.gov](mailto:jdarling@cdhd.idaho.gov).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **ASTHMA AWARENESS TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**



**Saturday, February 26, 2005  
9:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Central District Health  
Department  
707 N Armstrong Pl, Boise  
Syringa Room**

**Cost: Free**

In this interactive training, a health professional will teach providers:

- To recognize the signs/symptoms of asthma/allergies
- To institute environmental control measures for prevention
- To properly use medication/tools and handle an emergency

***This course will result in 3 hours of Idaho STARS credit as well as 3 hours of City of Boise Child Care Training Network credit.***

Call 375-5211 to register – space is limited, so call early  
(registration deadline – February 18)

**February 15: Coalition Meeting.** The next Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 in the Syringa Room at Central District Health from Noon to 1:30 p.m., a light lunch will be served as usual.

### **COMMUNITY IN ACTION**

Adapted from The Idaho Statesman, January 4, 2005



The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with local schools on a new project called Clean Air Zone Idaho.

The voluntary, federally funded project aims to make the air healthier on public school grounds by discouraging parents from idling their cars while they're dropping off or picking up their kids. Schools that participate get a packet of free information from DEQ, but the most visible part of the project is the signs posted in school parking lots that remind parents to turn off their engines. So far, 12 schools in the Treasure Valley are part of Clean Air Zone Idaho.

One out of 10 Americans has asthma, a condition exacerbated by exhaust. Children are especially vulnerable to bad air. Their lungs are still developing, they breathe at a faster rate than adults and are physically shorter - closer to the tailpipes.

When schools sign up with the DEQ and receive the Clean Air Zone Idaho kit, the DEQ also will notify them about clean air funding opportunities. An example would be the Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean School Bus USA" project. The project, which retro-fits school buses to run more cleanly, got more money from the federal government this year. The beauty of being part of Clean Air Zone Idaho is that schools don't actually have to do the paperwork to get the money. Leonard Herr will do all the paperwork, then channel the money to local schools. "That's what DEQ pays me for," he said. He has enough kits, including free parking lot signage, for every school in the state.

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The American Lung Association (ALA) of Idaho has a new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Mysti Walker comes from Springfield, MO, and is working with the ALA as the Asthma Education Coordinator. Having a physically active lifestyle, the highlight of her move to Boise has been the availability of outdoor recreational opportunities. She is eager to see asthmatics educated on asthma management so they understand that they too can enjoy an active lifestyle.

Her vision for the time she spends with the ALA is to see asthma education programs expand prolifically throughout the Treasure Valley (including both high and low population counties). Mysti's primary focus is implementing Open Airways for Schools, and her involvement with the program includes 1) finding schools to participate in the program, 2) recruiting and training volunteers to facilitate the program, and 3) tracking results. Because her goals cannot be accomplished alone, she is looking forward to meeting and collaborating with others passionate about asthma education. For comments, questions & volunteer opportunities, contact Mysti at 424-0249 or at: [free\\_breathing@hotmail.com](mailto:free_breathing@hotmail.com).